

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1044

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5455

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR YO

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROLS ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. AS DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT, I HAVE REVIEWED THE MISSION'S
ACTIVITIES IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING EFFECTIVE-

NESS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

2. AS THE EMBASSY REPORTED IN ITS RECENT UP-DATE OF THE NARCOTICS
CONTROL ACTION PLAN (BELGRADE A-436) SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS
BEEN MADE OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS IN ACCOMPLISHING THE ORIGINAL
GOALS WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED FOR THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM
IN YUGOSLAVIA. MECHANIZED PRODUCTION OF MORPHINE AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF STRICT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER THE
CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING OF OPIUM POPPIES HAVE LARGELY ELIMINATED
THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT LEAKAGE FROM THE DOMESTIC CROP INTO
ILLEGAL CHANNELS. YUGOSLAVIA'S NASCENT DOMESTIC NARCOTICS
PROBLEM IS TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY LOCAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS
AND EFFECTIVE EFFORTS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ELIMINATE IT. IN JOINT
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US-YUGOSLAV NARCOTICS OPERATIONS, YUGOSLAVS HAVE GIVEN CLEAR
IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO INVEST ALL NECESSARY

RESOURCES TO ERADICATE DRUG TRAFFICKING AND THAT THEY HAVE THEIR DOMESTIC NARCOTICS PROBLEMS UNDER GOOD CONTROL.

3. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAEQ BEEN MADE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST ILLEGAL NARCOTICS: SEIZURES OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SMUGGLING CHANNELS WHICH CROSS YUGOSLAVIA HAVE BEEN INCREASED EACH YEAR FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS; SEIZURES OF DRUGS ON THE ILLICIT YUGOSLAV MARKET (THOUGH MODEST BY US STANDARDS DUE TO MUCH SMALLER DIMENSIONS OF YUGOSLAV PROBLEM) HAVE ALSO INCREASED; YUGOSLAVIA HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR MADE A MONETARY DONATION TO THE UN COMMISSION FOR NARCOTIC DRUGS TO MATCH ITS LONG-TERM PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS FORUMS; THE YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION JOINTLY SPONSORED A TRAINING SEMINAR WITH US CUSTOMS TO INCREASE OVERALL EFFICIENCY OF YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS IN CONTROLLING NARCOTICS FLOW; YUGOSLAV NARCOTICS OFFICIALS LAST WINTER PARTICIPATED IN AND FACILITATED THREE JOINT UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS WITH US NARCOTICS AGENTS SO AS TO WIN THE UNQUALIFIED PRAISE OF THE AMERICANS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATIONS.

4. IN SUM, I FEEL THAT US ASSISTANCE TO YUGOSLAVIA IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL AND THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL SERIOUSLY WITH BOTH ITS SMALL DOMESTIC PROBLEM AND ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE WIDER-REACHING PROBLEM OF ILLICIT INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING WHICH TRANSMITS THIS COUNTRY.

5. WHILE PLEASED WITH OUR PROGRESS IN WORKING WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, WE ARE NOT COMPLACENT. THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD -- I.E., THE COUNTRY TEAM, THUS ALL SENIOR MISSION OFFICIALS, WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR'S WORK, AND INSURE THAT ALL APPROPRIATE RESOURCES OF THE MISSION ARE APPLIED TO THE SEARCH FOR MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO COMBAT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. DURING A RECENT VISIT HERE BY THE DEA NARCOTICS ATTACHE FROM EMBASSY VIENNA, WHOSE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDES YUGOSLAVIA, IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES WERE WORKED OUT WITH YUGOSLAV NARCOTICS OFFICIALS TO COORDINATE AND IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN COMBATTING NARCOTICS
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SMUGGLING THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA. EMBASSY WILL ALSO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS, JOINTLY WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS CONTROLS AT ONE OF THE KEY BORDER CROSSING POINTS THROUGH WHICH THE BULK OF THE SMUGGLED NARCOTICS MUST PASS. IF A CONCRETE PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION SHOULD BE ENGENDERED BY THIS EFFORT, THE EMBASSY WILL PROMPTLY APPRISE DEPARTMENT AS STIPULATED PARA 5 REFTTEL.
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